

REMARKS

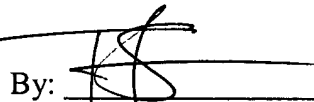
Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application, and for allowing claim 14 and indicating that claims 9-12 contain allowable subject matter.

In accordance with the Examiner's statements in the Advisory Action dated December 15, 2006, Applicant cancels claims 1-2, 4-8, 13, 15, and 18-30 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, only claims 9-12, 14, and 16-17 are now pending in this application and the application is in condition for allowance. Claims 16-17 were left pending in this application because these claims depend on allowed claim 14 and, thus, must be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14. Accordingly, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If any issues arise with respect to this reply, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, Reference No. 02008.156001.

Dated: 12/29/06

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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